

Dear esteemed members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I wish to express my dedicated and confirmed OPPOSITION to HB 5653 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.

The concept of an ammunition tax is, yet again, being proposed the concept of which only punishes legal gun owners and fails to prevent the criminals from illegal actions. I am resolved to submit testimony against this pointless mission to impact out second amendment right and the essential element that is required to use a firearm given as inalienable right in the second amendment.

A congregation of gun owners many of these will be new gun owners of an ever-increasing diversity of socioeconomic backgrounds, ages, genders, and ethnic/racial backgrounds. Many of these have recently come of age and are started in their Constitutional journey in the, post-Bruen world.

The funding for community-based violence programs is a worthwhile endeavor, know that singling out American citizens exercising a constitutionally protected right, who lawfully possess firearms, and are not the root of the violence to “pay just a little more” is unjust. We will not tolerate ANY amount. The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act currently levies 11.5% tax on ammunition as well a sales tax and now you want more, enough is enough.

Know that the proposed bill is unconstitutional. A right should not be subject to an excise tax, whether it is 50%, 35%, or in the case now of HB 5653, an estimated 15-20% tax. This bill is a biased attack and a vindictive punishment against legal gun owners. Representative Gilchrist has a mission to infringe on our rights and the bias is evident.

It unfairly disadvantages individuals of lower socioeconomic class. This isn't just my opinion but was also the opinion of many state representatives and senators when something similar was proposed SEVERAL TIMES in the past. One only must imagine the single mother, on a fixed income, who lives in a crime-ridden city, who relies on training, practicing and carrying her firearm to protect herself and her family to see it as unfairly disadvantaging her.

It will be absolutely useless at reducing suicides, which account for 66% of all gun-related deaths. It will be inept at reducing gun crime. It is common knowledge that criminals obtain their guns, and the ammo, by stealing it or by buying these stolen items on the black market. Most lawbreakers do not frequent gun shops or buy ammunition at retail outlets. The current statute relative to ammunition purchases requires that all persons shall be required to show a permit. To imagine that a felon who wishes to buy ammo will be deterred from doing so because of a tax, is absurd.

This proposal will not make us safer and only penalizes the law-abiding public and clearly infringes on a right provided by Our Constitution. The defeat this bill's concept year after year, and now in a post-Bruen world, it seems that the desperate attempt Representative Gilchrist again proposes this useless and unlawful legislation.

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Norwich Concerned Voter